

Office of Congressman Charles W. Dent  
*Proudly Representing Pennsylvania's 15<sup>th</sup> District*



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## Attorney General Alberto Gonzales visits Allentown, touts new anti-gang initiative

ALLENTOWN — U.S. Rep. Charlie Dent (PA-15) welcomed U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales Jr., U.S. Attorney for Eastern Pennsylvania Patrick Meehan and U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum to the Lehigh Valley in announcing an important new anti-gang initiative. Several communities in Eastern Pennsylvania collectively known as the “Route 222 Corridor” join only five other larger cities in the U.S. as the first to participate in this program to curb gang violence.

Along with the 222 corridor, program designations will go to Los Angeles, Tampa, Fla., Cleveland, Dallas/Ft. Worth, and Milwaukee. Each program will be supported by \$2.5 million in grant funds. Total funding for the program is \$15 million.

Congressman Dent praised the “strong partnership” of the region’s mayors, police chiefs, district attorneys and others whose support for this initiative led the Justice Department to include Eastern Pennsylvania as one of the sites.

Attorney General Gonzales, Congressman Dent and other officials also toured a neighborhood in Allentown that is part of the city’s “Weed and Seed” program, designed to root out crime and rebuild the neighborhood. General Gonzales visited City Lights Assembly of God Church at Ridge and Chew streets to talk with Pastor Jim Rivera about the community’s efforts to rid itself of gang and drug violence.

The Attorney General also visited with leaders of the Lehigh Valley's Latino community.

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